

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA
MEETINGS MINUTES**

Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Ojeda, Ev Essif, Jazmin Nuñez, Leshawn Bowen, Jose Roberto Diaz-Brown, Ki Huang, Madeline Zheng, Karmea Dougless, Arnoldo Martinez, Aaditee Kudrimoti, Brennen Feder, Patrick Derrig, Glenn Ward.

Non-Members Present: Paul Lovelis, Ed Nossem, Kendra Davey.

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER – Maggie Zheng
Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.
- 2.0 ROLL CALL – Maggie Zheng
Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.
- 3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Maggie Zheng
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.
- 4.0 WELCOME – Maggie Zheng and Paul Lovelis welcomed the group.
- 5.0 INTRODUCTIONS – Maggie Zheng
YAC/TTC members introduced themselves providing information as to their grade, name of school they represent. The game “Two Truths and a Lie” was played as an icebreaker.
- 6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Maggie Zheng
Motion to approve April 15, 2015 minutes: Leshawn Bowen
Second: Karmae Douglass
Minutes approved unanimously.
- 7.0 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION - Paul Lovelis
Paul Lovelis presented a brief history of the YAC/TTC, and its function and mission. New members were given a copy of the YAC/TTC Bylaws and an MEC Brochure so as to familiarize themselves with the Commission’s work and programs.
- 8.0 YAC/TTC 2015-2016 ACTIVITIES OUTLINE - Paul Lovelis
The YAC/TTC activities and responsibilities were described: the Teen Town Hall; LULAC Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) & Career Fair; Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium; Student Advocacy Day; Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest; Dorothy Finley Outstanding Teen Citizen Awards; Selection of the Crystal Apple Counselor and Youth Honorees; Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon; Regional College Access Center; proposed Youth Candidates Forum; and visits with elected officials. The students were given printed descriptions of the various activities so that they can select which activity committee they would like to participate in.

Leshawn Bowen suggested that the Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest be expanded to include an essay contest, and that the Teen Town Hall be expanded to include another event (Teen Town Hall). He also suggested that we discuss a debate as opposed to a Candidate’s Forum. Ed

Approved 9/16/2015

Nossem pointed out that expansion of the Teen Town Hall would present some logistical issues for the MEC office, and that another event might require some funding.

Aaditee Kudrimoti mentioned Youth On Their Own refugee students, and suggested the possibility of a college being assigned to individual classrooms, targeting refugee students. She also requested that we adopt/support The Student-Teacher Profile Bill, which is designed to test students on skills that have been taught and emphasized during their high school careers that yield college and workforce readiness. She suggested that a teacher can present on the bill at a future YAC/TTC meeting, also attended by MEC Executive Director Dr. June Webb-Vignery; this will be brought to the attention of the MEC Executive Board for consideration.

Glenn Ward suggested that we should sponsor other contests to draw disengaged students who do not participate. Maggie suggested that the concept of “graduation” is too abstract for younger grade schoolers; Ed pointed out that some of the best artwork from grade schoolers has actually been submitted by younger students. David Ojeda suggested better advertisement for the Poster Contest such as flyers; Paul Lovelis pointed out that there are school protocols to be met for that to occur. Aaditee suggested that we contact school Student Councils regarding community events.

9.0 ELECTION OF YAC/TTC OFFICERS – NOMINATIONS – MAGGIE ZHENG

The opportunity for members to be nominated or nominate themselves for the YAC/TTC Executive Committee was introduced. The following are the nominations for the Executive Committee: PRESIDENT: Leshawn Bowen, David Ojeda; VICE-PRESIDENT: Ki Huang; RECORDING SECRETARY: Jose Roberto Diaz-Brown; CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Jasmyn Nuñez; TREASURER: Jose Roberto Diaz-Brown; Arnoldo Martinez. The candidates were asked to prepare stump speeches for the next meeting that will be delivered before the YAC/TTC votes. Ed made it clear that these commitments are to be taken seriously, and that attendance at as many of the YAC/TTC meetings as possible is a requirement for office.

10.0 PIMA PUBLIC LIBRARY – Kendra Davies

Ms. Davies described the Library’s 101 Youth Center function and activities. She invited the students to participate in the Library’s Summer Reading Program, which stresses the value of early childhood reading for later success in school and graduation. Also, students who do not read consistently during the summer out-of-school time can experience “Summer Slide”, where their reading proficiency drops. She asked the students to urge their peers to read consistently during the summer, and to find structures that support the community to do so, and to research the demographics of students who do not graduate and use them as examples.

Ms. Davies would like to give a 20-minute presentation at a future YAC/TC meeting, and follow up at subsequent YAC/TTC meetings.

11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The group was briefed on the League of Arizona Cities & Towns Conference that took place on August 19th, and invited to attend the September 9th Mayor & Council meeting when the attendees will deliver a report on the day’s activities.

Paul Lovelis spoke about voluntary “volunteer hours” for prospective organizations, that would perhaps take place one Saturday per month.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Maggie Zheng

Second: David Ojeda

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 P.M.